

## City of Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting

Date	February 10, 2016
Location	Library Garden Room

### Commission Members:

Name	Present	Absent	Remote
Jeffrey Wolfgang	X		
Bill Tolos		X	
Doris Matte	X		
Marianne	X		
Sheela Tallamraju	X		
Marshal Haneisen		X	
Sharon Tardiff		X	

Guest: Amy LeBlanc

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes - Reviewed and approved January minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Announcements, Notices and Events - We had a guest at the meeting - Theresa E. Kane, Chief Operating Officer for The Polus Center located in Clinton. She talked about all the amazing work they do to help adults with disabilities to secure jobs, The Polus Center offers job coaching, identifying the interest areas of the candidates. They offer help with training classes that start every 8 weeks in Leominster MA.

*The Disabilities Employment Initiative V (DEIV) is a project of the North Central MA Workforce Investment Board, funded by Employment Links, Inc. and the Division of Career Services through the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administrative.*

Eligibility for employment includes a self-disclosed disability of any kind; Ability to work 30-40 hours for at least 6 months; Interest in working as a CNA; Legally allowed to work in U.S.; Age 18+; Ready to work; Able to work independently; and Interest in working in North Central MA area.

Agenda item 3: Fitchburg State University - Sheela drafted a response to the Vice President of FSU - Mr. Bry, requesting a timeframe on resolving some of the compliance issues addressed in our meeting. We are currently waiting on a response to that letter from FSU.

Agenda item 4: **Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment** - Amy attended a meeting of the group who is hoping to install a universally accessible playground at Coolidge Park. They want to site the new equipment adjacent to the existing playground as more of an expansion rather than a new playground. It will be designed for children of all abilities. They plan to have fencing along the driveway.

They are currently getting proposals from three different playground manufacturers and will make a decision on their preferred design and equipment. They will be undertaking fund raising in order to purchase this equipment and plan a community build.

Agenda item 5: Education Subcommittee/SPED - The Commission agreed that the Education Subcommittee will focus its efforts on the Disability Awareness Event, which will be held in April.

Agenda item 6: Housing/Wallace Towers - no update

Agenda item 7: Disability Awareness Event - Sheela has contacted Mike, the coordinator of Best Buddies. They are very excited to have Fitchburg High School be the host site for the Resource Event. Mr. Ravenelle, Superintendent of the Fitchburg Public Schools, will attend the event. Longsjo Middle School has confirmed they will set up a table for the event. Alicia, the Sped Director, is coordinating with her staff to see if the students can create essays +/- posters to display at the event. The Mayor also is very interested in helping to the cause. The planning for the event is happening at a rigorous pace. A Flyer for the event is being drafted for distribution to citywide organizations and families.

Agenda item 8: New Business - None

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fitchburg Public Library Garden Room.